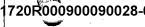
## Approved Ear Release 2004/12/02 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000900090028-0





NIO 729-74

DATE: 12 April 1974

The Director TO:

SUBJECT: Comments on Washington Post Article

- 1. This morning you asked for comments on the attached article from the Washington Post. Comments are attached.
  - 2. I would add two observations:
- a. The reporter, Richard Homan, has a good reputation for reporting accuracy among former members of the negotiating team. Die Presse also has a reputation for good access to both Eastern and Western delegations.
- 3. As noted in the comment, the proposal would engage the Western Europeans in reduction process.

George A. Carver, Jr. D/DCI/NIO

Attachments

GAC Chrono

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By Richard Homan

The report, published by agreement.

Die Pesse, one of Austria's The compromise proposal circles," and could not imme Western demands: that the diately be confirmed here. Ne- Warsaw Pact must reduce its tal's have already left Vienna current numerical advantage, ductions are necessary.

ern allies said, however, that ciuded in the reductions. the compromose proposal Under the Warsaw Pact's Central Europe, would remove would probably be unaccepta- original proposal, presented only 7,770 of NATO's 777,000 ble to NATO because the West last November, each side troops and 9,250 of the Wartion in the slightest.

said.

presented shortly after the nuclear arms. features were developed as a for 15 per cent reductions of said NATO would continue to

fresult of small informal dis- U.S. and Soviet ground forces firmly basist that only Soviet

VIENNA, April 12—The Soviet union is preporing a compromise proposal for the East-View force reduction talks that it hopes will bridge the will gap between the present NATO and Warsaw Pact positions and lead to an early initial step in lowering troop levels in Central Europe, a Vienna newspaper reported today.

The report, published by specifical name an expectated in the area, with both sides related to a ceiling of 700,009 each in the area, with both sides related to the area, with both sides related to the area, with both sides related to the ducing their ground forces to a ceiling of 700,009 each in the second phase.

In the reported compromise the twould drop its request for equal 20,000-man reductions on both sides, calling instead for "symbolic" first-step cuts of both sides, calling instead for "symbolic" first-step cuts of about one per cent in the first phase, and it would each the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance are dealt with only at the talks that matters of subtance ar

for a four-week Easter recess, and that air forces and nu-

did not intend to alter its posi- would reduce its Central Euro- saw Pact's 925,000, thereby doon in the slightest.

"Our position is undeviat-first phase, with equal per-150,000-man advantage—a chiefing," the Western spokesman centage reductions in later objection of the West. phases. Forces of all nations A Western source said today The proposal, according to would be involved from the that the reported proposal had the newspaper report, is to be start, as would air forces and not come to NATO's attention,

talks resume here in the sec- NATO's counter-proposal, of account, and that, as describond week of May and its key fered two weeks later, called ed, it had "many holes." He

most respected newspapers, reportedly would take small the report, drop its insistence was ath limited to "conference stops toward meeting two keys." was attributed to "conference steps toward meeting two key that air forces and nuclear weapons be included in the reductions, if the West were gotiators from most of the 19 forces by greater numbers willing to make an oral acnations taking part in the than the West because of its knowledgment that such re-

The one per cent reductions, A spokesman for the West-| clear weapons must not be in-| based on current NATO estimates of troop strenghts int

except through the newspaper.

overall troop strengths. Most meeting that is to take place

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## Comment on Post Article on MBFR

There is no confirmation that the Soviets are	
preparing to introduce formally a proposal like that	
reported in today's Post.	5X1
The Die	
 Presse story, on which the Post article draws, may	
represent a Soviet effort to bring public pressure to	
bear on the West Europeans.	
the Soviets have been trying to	
win Western acceptance of a "symbolic" reduction. Originally 2	5X1
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The Post article partially misconstrues the Die Presse
account (attached). It is clear from the latter that the
one percent reference applies to the reduction of West
European forces. A more substantial reduction of US and
Soviet forces would also be involved.
Even a one percent reduction of
national forces might be considered by Moscow to meet that
commitment.

25X1

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The purported new proposal, and all variants of the symbolic reduction, have had the basic purpose of engaging the Western Europeans in the reduction process. The Soviets have waged a heavy media campaign toward this end and have not been above using press leaks at the Vienna negotiations. The <u>Die Presse</u> story seems to fit in this category.

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